

June 14, 2018

The June 14, 2018 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1976. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Dawn Smith and Ruth Pante; Glenn Todd was excused. A quorum was declared. Township Committeeman Michael Misertino arrived late.

Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting, seconded by Ms. Smith; all in favor.

Cafferata Park

Only two nesting boxes have been replaced; five or six boxes are now in place.

Environmental Issues

Reporting for the Land Use Committee, Mr. Jewell said the Meadows at Mansfield is under discussion for several issues: natural gas being supplied via Route 57; water is now available at the site but not enough to supply water for a fire emergency; approval for eight additional lots has been given; some houses are only 10 feet apart though nine houses are already sold. The architect has given testimony on the club house and model home, two more professionals are expected to speak. A bulk variance is needed for the Route 57 entrance, the corner lot.

ERI

Daniel Bloch has resubmitted a plan, but there is nothing we can do right now. Because the Township Committee has declared that an update to the ERI is no longer needed, members discussed the possibility of requesting again next year. Mr. Misertino reported the planner said we do not need an updated ERI. The last Master Plan was done in 1999 with data from the 1990s; this is usually revised every six or eight years. The ERI that was updated in 2006 showed about 12 percent of Mansfield as Green Acres or state owned properties, that could now be 30 percent because parks and other open spaces are changing. Ms. Smith reported there are towns in Warren County that have not updated their tax maps since the 1950s or 1960s. The tax map does need updating.

Mr. Misertino, asking what the implications are for not updating the ERI, said road maps are an aid in street planning, acquisition of property, etc. and need to be considered and prioritized. Green Acres regulations were discussed. Members present discussed where funding from Green Acres goes, whether this might be within the Environmental Commission trust and control.

A twilight bat walk will be held July 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Pequest Fish Hatchery where NJ Fish and Wildlife will do programs.

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante